WHAT'S HENTAI?
HA HA, YOU DON'T KNOW? HENTAI--ANIME PORN.
SCHOOL-GIRLS GETTING ATTACKED BY TENTACLE MONSTERS...AND SO ON AND SO FORTH.
CENSORED
CENSORED
SORED
BETTER GET A MOVE ON.
YEAH, WANT TO GET GOOD SEATS, HEH HEH.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE SCHOOLGIRLS BEING RAPED!!
PANIC
PANIC
HURRY UP, CHRISS!
WHAT'S THE HOLD-UP?
HERE GOES NOTHING.
ACTUALLY..

...I HAVE A BIT OF A HEADACHE.
OH NO!
YEAH...
I DON'T THINK I SHOULD BE WATCHING ANY...
TEEEEENTACLES
...UM, MOVIES.
IT MIGHT MAKE IT WORSE.
AWWW, THAT'S TOO BAD.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST TAKE A TYLENOL?
I'D RATHER NOT. YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE PILLS.
YEAH.

WELP.
SLAP!
SORRY WE WON'T HAVE YA WITH US.
HERE'S THE ROOM KEY.
GET SOME SLEEP--WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO BE QUIET WHEN WE GET BACK IN.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
FEEL BETTER, OKAY?
UM, OKAY.

OH, FOR CRYING OUT...
The headache was a lie, of course.
.....

But if it was real...
.....
...he wouldn't give a rat's ass, would he?
DAYLODGE
AT LEAST THE HOTEL'S CLOSE.
YAY FOR THE LITTLE THINGS.
GRAB
OH, HEY, THANKS FOR HOLDING THE DOOR. BRATS...

HOLD
THANK Y--
...!!!
YOU AGAIN!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
PERFECT END TO A PERFECT DAY.
GRUMBLEMUTTER

QUIT FOLLOWING ME!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.
I HAPPEN TO BE STAYING HERE, TOO.
OH. DAMN.
SSSS
...!
WAIT!
HOLD THE ELEVATOR, PLEASE!
YEAH, HOLD IT, HOLD IT!
?
WOOT!
.....EEP?
WHEE!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
SQUISH
URG, EXCUSE ME...
ER.. HELLO?
HA HA HA
...THE RULES, SO THE LOSER BROUGHT A REAL SWORD!
PUSH
SHOVE
OUCH!!
HEY!
COULD YOU...

WATCH IT, MAN.
OOOPS, SORRY!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YEAH. I THINK SO.

.....
There it is again.
The urge to reach for this guy I barely know...
After all the mean things he's said...
...all I can think about now is...
Is...
STOP!
GLANCE

?
. . . . !
What...
...is this?

!
PUSH
DING!
FSSSSS
.....
.....HUH?
SLID
WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?
THE VERY TOP FLOOR. OOPS!
I...MISSED MY FLOOR.
M-ME, TOO.
WHAT THE HELL DID I JUST ALMOST DO???
...OH.
17
15
14
12
11
10
9
8
7

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN.
WHICH FLOOR'S YOURS?
DISCREETLY FANNING SELF.
UM, 612.
SMIRK
I MEAN, 6!!
FLOOR 6!!
FLOOR 612 IT IS.
I'M GETTING OFF ON 306, MYSELF.
HEH, WELL, I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO EXCHANGE ROOM NUMBERS..
...ROOM NUM-BERS!
COME ON, MIND, OUT OF THE GUTTER!!
MY ROOM... OR YOURS?

WHY. ISN'T. THIS DAY. OVER YET??
PRETENDING NOTHING HAPPENED.
BY THE WAY...
NO, NO, DON'T SAY IT--I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
I AM SORRY ABOUT EARLIER TODAY. I WENT TOO FAR.
MAY I...
...BUY YOU ONE AS AN APOLOGY?
!
THE CAFÉ DOWNSTAIRS SERVES VERY GOOD LATTES.
.....! UM...
THINK FAST THINK FAST THINK FAST THINK FAST THINK FAST...

...NO.
FAIR ENOUGH.
BUT I COULD GO FOR SOME HOT CHOCOLATE.
Y-YOU TEASE ME, I SEE.
I GUESS I DESERVED THAT.
OH MY GOD, DID I JUST FLIRT?!?!?!!
YOU TOTALLY DID! YAY!
SO NOT YAY--SHE'S GOT A BOYFRIEND!!

...COSPLAYING.
OTHER THAN THAT, NO. I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE VERY MUCH.
REALLY?
BUT YOU HIDE IT SO WELL.
:CHUCKLE:
?
YOU'RE LIKE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
ONE MINUTE YOU'RE MEEK AND SUBMISSIVE, AND THE NEXT YOU'RE ALL BARBS AND SARCASM.

...OH, UM...
YEAH, PEOPLE SAY I'M WEIRD THAT WAY.
I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU...
YOU SHOULD BE.
...SMARTASS.
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YOUR BOYFRIEND...
YOU SEEM TO LET HIM GET AWAY WITH A LOT MORE THAN YOU DO THE NEXT PERSON.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE SLEEPING WITH HIM?
SOMETIMES PEOPLE CLING DESPERATELY TO THEIR FIRST, GOING TO ANY LENGTHS TO MAKE IT WORK.
EVEN IF THE FIRST TURNS OUT TO BE AN ASSHOLE.
...?!
COUGH COUGH
...IS THAT YOU, TOO?
...!!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF ASKING PRIVATE THINGS LIKE THAT??!!
JUST CURIOUS.
IT'S NOT A CRIME TO ASK.

IT'S RUDE!
PUSH
SAYS YOU.
SAYS EVERYONE!
AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE IS RUDE?!
PRAY TELL.
THAT YOU WEAR YOUR STUPID SHADES WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE!
DO YOU KNOW HOW DISCONCERTING IT IS TO NOT SEE THE EYES OF THE PERSON YOU'RE TALKING TO?!
TAKE THEM OFF, FER CRYING OUT...
YOINK!
GOD.

LIKE TO KEEP THEM ON.
IF YOU DON'T MIND TERRIBLY MUCH.
.....N-NO.
I D-DON'T.
...I AM SORRY.
I DIDN'T KNOW.
MOVING RIGHT ALONG.
YOUR BOYFRIEND-- IS AN ASS, BUT YOU STICK AROUND ANYWAY. WHY?
OH, UM...
DON'T STARE, DON'T STARE, DON'T STARE...
WELL...

IT'S EASY TO GIVE UP ON SOMEONE...
...IF THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY PERFECT. I'D RATHER STICK AROUND THE PERSON AND HELP THEM CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
VALIANT OF YOU.
TAP
BUT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS BENDING OVER BACKWARDS TOO FAR.
YOU LET HIM GET AWAY WITH TOO MUCH AND HE'LL GET EVEN WORSE.
.....
...HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS STUFF?
COLLEGE PSYCH 101. BETTER THAN CABLE.
THAT... THAT ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE...
YOU'RE IN COLLEGE??!
FINISHED FIRST YEAR. YOU?
11TH GRADE...
FEELS YOUNG

HUH. THOUGHT YOU WERE OLDER.
FEELS OLD
TWITCH
:CHUCKLE:
IT WAS A COMPLIMENT.
YOU FORGOT TO WARN ME.
SPEAKING OF ASSHOLES-- YOU'RE ONE. SHOULD I WALK AWAY NOW, OR WHAT?
IF I ASKED YOU FOR A DATE, PROBABLY. HEH.
ALL RIGHT, I'LL CONSIDER MYSELF SAFE FOR THE TIME BEING, THEN.
HA HA
I like...
...the way he laughs.

Cafe
WELL, UM...
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW?
SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.
!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
OH, DEREK! THIS IS MATT.
BACK FROM DICKS ANONYMOUS ALREADY?

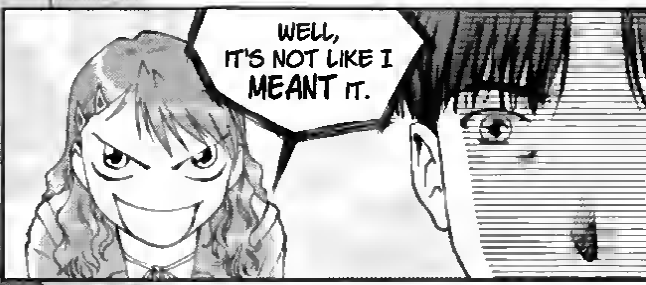
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING? I THOUGHT YOU HAD A HEADACHE!
I-I...
BUSTED!
MUST'VE IMPROVED WITH BETTER COMPANY.
SHUT UP! AND STAY AWAY FROM MY GIRL!
MAKE ME.
GLADLY, PAL! WANT TO TAKE THIS OUTSIDE?
W-WAIT, GUYS!
STAY OUT OF THIS!
DON'T TALK TO HER LIKE THAT.

DON'T TELL ME HOW TO TALK TO MY GIRLFRIEND!
GRR
GRRR
WHILE YOU'RE DREAMING--HOW ABOUT A PONY, TOO?
SHUT UP!!
FOOOM
MEN.
YOU!
JAB
FLINCH
THANK YOU FOR A LOVELY EVENING. SEE YOU TOMORROW!
. . . .
AND YOU.
COUGH COUGH
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
GRUMBLE
DRAG DRAG

DING!

...WITH SOME RANDOM GUY?!
FSSS
HE'S A GOOD PERSON!!
SO YOU FLIRT WITH HIM BEHIND MY BACK?!

!


WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I MEANT IT.

I'M JUST TRYING TO RETURN THE COURTESY OF YOU GIVING ME SPACE!
I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AREN'T I?! SO WHY DON'T YOU TRUST ME??
OR IS INDEPENDENCE TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE??!

HOW'S THAT FOOT TASTE, DEREK?
. . . !
WHY ARE YOU BACK SO EARLY, ANYWAY?
DOESN'T YOUR *PORN* GO ON FOR LONGER?
I CAME BACK TO CHECK ON YOU.

NOT THAT YOU CARE, OBVIOUSLY.
W-WAIT...
SNATCH
Y-YOU WERE WORRIED? ABOUT ME...?
OF COURSE.
REALLY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THAT SURPRISED.
UM...I'M SORRY I YELLED.

YOU KNOW....
THEY WON'T BE BACK FOR ANOTHER HOUR, AT LEAST.
O-OKAY.
CLOSE
10 MINUTES LATER.
HANG ON, BABY, WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
GROOOOAN
NO MORE FAST FOOD THIS WEEKEND, OKAY?
PAUSE
.....
...OR SHOULD I KNOCK FIRST?

LEAN
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US EITHER WAY.
...AND I'LL WELCOME IT.
OH, GOD.
OKAY, GUYS, COVER UP WHAT YOU DON'T WANT SEEN!!
BUSTED!!
.....!
.....!
SOOOOO SORRY, GUYS!
I KNOW WE SAID YOU COULD HAVE THE ROOM TO YOURSELVES FOR A WHILE...

BUT BRETT'S REALLY SICK...
...EH? HOW DID YOU KNO--
HE NEEDS TO LIE DOWN.
ER... HEH?
.....
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US. CAN I HELP WITH ANYTHING?
OH, THANKS SO MUCH, BUT IT'S OKAY!
HE JUST NEEDS HIS MEDICINE AND A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.
CAME BACK TO CHECK ON ME, DID YOU?
AWW, COME ON--WE BARELY GET ANY TIME ALONE!
THIS WAS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!
THE SUPER ULTIMATE PISSED-OFF GIRLFRIEND MOVE
K.O!
SLAP

WELL...WELL, FINE!
BE THAT WAY!
HEY GUYS, YOU HAVE AN EXTRA BLANKET I COULD BORROW?
MPF!
AND SHUT UP.

Next morning.
YAMMER
CHIT CHIT
STRETCH
OWW.
ROUGH NIGHT
LOOK AT HIM.
ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
PLOP
MORNING!
YES, IT IS.
BEAM!
DID YOU KNOW YOU HAVE TWO DONUTS STUCK TO YOUR HEAD?
YUM!
JUST F.Y.I.

!!
.....
HMPF
DO ME A FAVOR...
...AND AT LEAST TRY TO NOT SOUND LIKE YOU WANT ME.
COVERGIRL POSE
WHY? I'M MAN ENOUGH TO ADMIT WHAT I WANT.
THUD
S-SMARTASS...
0 K.O! 1
HEH.
HEY, MATT!
ARE YOU DONE SETTING UP?

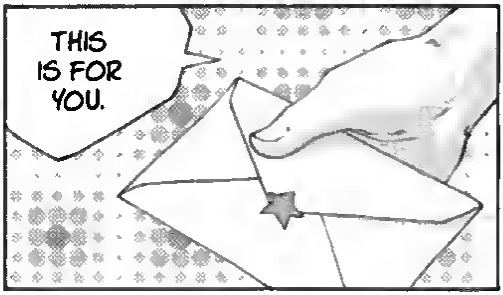
I'LL TAKE OVER HERE.
SHE WANTS YOU AT THE BOOTH TODAY.
...AND BOY, IS SHE IN ONE OF HER MOODS!
DID YOU GUYS HAVE A FIGHT OR SOMETHING?
I KNEW IT.
.....
:SIGH:
MATT, YOU TWO REALLY SHOULD...
I KNOW, I KNOW.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

?
. . . . .
HI! YOU'RE CHRISTIE, RIGHT?
I'M GRETA.
WHO WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT??!
NICE TO MEET YOU...
I CAN'T JUST ASK HER THAT...
BITE BITE
NNNN. HE WOULDN'T FLIRT WITH ME IF HE ALREADY HAD SOMEONE...
...RIGHT?
DOESN'T STOP DEREK.
DOESN'T STOP YOU.
...GOOD POINT.

MAYBE HIS GIRLFRIEND IS A TOTAL BITCH.
HEY, YES!
LIKE YOUR MR. WRONG THERE.
MAYBE HE'S STUCK IN A DEAD-END RELATIONSHIP...
...AND YOU'RE THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF LIGHT HE'S SEEN IN A WHILE SO HE JUST CAN'T HELP IT...
TEH EVIL GIRLFRIEND
OH HO HO
I AM SO TRAGIC.
I MAKE HIS LIFE A LIVING HELL!
...DELUDE YOURSELF MUCH?
OH! WE MUST SAVE HIM!
NRRR.
SLUMP
EXCUSE ME. ...HELLO?
HELLOOOOOO! OFFICIAL CON BUSINESS!
...!
ANYBODY HOME?

ARE YOU CHRISTINE LEROUX?
UH...
STAFF
DO I WANT TO BE?

YEAH, I...
RAWK.
DIG DIG

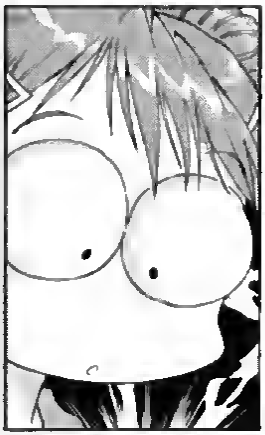

THIS IS FOR YOU.

GOOD LUCK WITH THE SALES!
AND IF YOU GUYS NEED ANYTHING, JUST COME BY THE CON OFFICE, 'K?
SEE YA!

.....EH?

LOOK

To Christie Leroux
From, Lida Zeff



BU-
BUMP
FUMBLE
FUMBLE
...YEAH, SEE YOU GUYS LATER!
HIDE
I'M GOING TO GO WANDER THE DEALERS' ROOM FOR A BIT.
UM...
JUST TO WARN YOU-- AROUND 1 P.M....
SIT
YEAH, WHATEVER.
BE STRONG, BE STRONG... MATT'S RIGHT--CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH TOO MUCH.
HE'S TOTALLY SULKING.

12:35 p.m.– Dealers' Room.
HMM, NOT TIME YET.
GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL ACTUALLY WANDER.
CAME PREPARED THIS TIME!
Map and bag for goodies--check!
Cell phone for emergencies and looking cool--check!
Tourist expression--awww, shut up...

PAWKY!!
AND IT'S ON SALE! HINT HINT!
PREACHING TO THE CHOIR, SIR!
FILL 'ER UP!!
YOU GOING TO BE OKAY TO DRIVE, MISS?
I PROMISE TO LET IT WEAR OFF BEFORE I DO!
MANGA!!
ALL THE NEW RELEASES FROM MANGAPOP!
SQUISH

HUH.
D'elusion
THIS PLACE IS KIND OF FUN.
YIKES! BIG CROWD.. MUST BE A POPULAR BOOTH.
....!
Wooooow.
Who is THAT?

She looks...like she stepped off an anime poster!
I didn't know people like that existed...
C-CAN I TAKE A PICTURE OF BOTH OF YOU?
OF COURSE!